

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)

Thursday, March 31, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: *Chairman Mike Lawlor*, Under Secretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, OPM; *Judge Patrick L. Carroll*, Chief Court Administrator, *Steve Grant*, Executive Director, CSSD; *Josh Howroyd*, Legislative Program Manager, Department of Children and Families, *Alejandro Arbelaez*, Manager, Department of Social Services; *Scott DeVico*, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection; *Thomas Saadi*, General Counsel & Director of Legislative Affairs, Department of Veterans' Affairs; *Brian Carlow*, Division of Public Defender Services, *Scott Semple*, Commissioner, Department of Corrections, *Rich Sparaco*, Board of Pardons and Paroles, *James Kenny*, Chiefs of Police Association, *Loel Meckel*, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, *Karen Jarmoc*, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, *Natasha Pierre*, State Victim Advocate

I. Introductions

Members introduced themselves and stated what agency they represented.

II. Welcome and Policy Update

BOPP is and will continue to progress on Second Chance Society changes. DOC is experiencing an illumination of jobs. The positive trajectory that is tracking in Connecticut's criminal justice system lately could quickly change with changes in policy due to budget. There has been an uptick in arrests in January and February, following very low arrests rates.

This meeting was broadcast on CT-N. <http://www.ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=12665>

The Monthly Indicators Report can be found on the OPM website:

http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=2976&Q=383680&opmNav_GID=1797

III. Approval of Minutes from February 25, 2016

- a. One small amendment was made in the Department of Veterans Affairs update. The February minutes reflect this change.

IV. Commission Correspondence

There was no commission correspondence.

V. Presentations

In lieu of a presentation, a discussion was had on Second Chance Society initiatives

- Expedited pardons process (09:50 <http://www.ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=12665>)
- Decreased penalties for drug possession; too early to draw conclusions (17:55 <http://www.ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=12665>)

- Raise the Age to include persons under the age of 20 in juvenile justice system (26:09 <http://www.ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=12665>)
 - Impacts of this were discussed extensively
 - Concerns were raised about: closed court rooms, victims in the courtroom, victims rights, domestic violence, background checks for police or armed forces, interrogations, transfers to adult court, population management, community based programming, confusion in law enforcement, sex offender and deadly weapon registries, DCF and DMHAS involvement, and more. (29:55 <http://www.ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=12665>)

VI. Agency Updates

Members provided updates on their agencies and latest initiatives.

Division of Public Defender Services – Juvenile-specific employees are available to meet, and are fully committed to make raise the age work well and accomplish the goals set forth.

Office of the Victim Advocate – See Victim Issues Subcommittee below

Board of Pardons and Paroles (BOPP) – At the BOPP hearings are up 12% from previous month, and there is a 14% increase of parole hearings from previous year. BOPP expects that cuts will inhibit BOPP to expanding hearings any further. BOPP is scheduling juvenile reconsideration hearings for people who were convicted of crimes under the age of 18, those hearings will be under way in the next couple months. In light of the uptick in the special parole population, BOPP has started to conduct preliminary hearings for Technical Violators, who in the past would have waived these hearings. These probable cause hearings are to decide if the TV is warranted for a remand; these began March 1st 2016.

Judicial Branch- Due to budget cuts programming will be reduced, including treatment beds, and supervision resources, which will have an impact on prison populations, it is assumed.

Court Support Services Division (CSSD) – CSSD is very concerned about the cuts, it directly impacts many years of collaboration between DOC, DMHAS and CSSD. The jail re-interview program would be drastically compromised because the referral beds would be compromised.

Department of Correction (DOC) – DOC population today is 15,541, down 613 from same time last year. Sentenced and accused populations are down as well. The community management aspect of DOC is up 12%. The DOC is taking the cuts very seriously, DOC staff will continue to move forward on initiatives despite cuts, for example tomorrow the DOC will open its' 3rd reintegration unit, the governor will be there, at the Cybulski Reintegration Unit.

Department of Children and Families (DCF) – The CJTS population today is 45 boys. The DCF Deputy Commissioner is actively involved in developing a plan to close CJTS by July 2018.

State Victim Advocate – National Crime Victims' Rights Awareness Week is April 10-16. Wednesday, April 13th there will be a public hearing for victims at CCSU to hear their input, and on April 16th at 9am there is the 2nd annual 5k Unity Walk at Bushnell Park.

VII. Subcommittee Updates

PJOR – no updates

Behavioral health – will meet next week

Victim issues – Office on Violence against Women Annual Conference in Chicago was this past week, three Connecticut representatives were present.

VIII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IX. Adjournment

Mike Lawlor adjourned the meeting at 10:35.